

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS
51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD on the 25 June 2014 @ 16h10, Black Mountain Conference Centre, Thaba 'Nchu, South
Africa

1 WELCOME AND OPENING

Prof Janine Adams, the society president, chaired the meeting. All members were welcomed and the conference organizing team were thanked for their efforts

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attending: Members: Janine Adams (in the chair), Victor Wepener, Nico Smit, Mike Silberbauer, Denise Schael, Wynand Vlok, Abe, Addo-Bediako, Mhairi Alexander, Peter Ashton, Ian Bailey, Kris Bal, Linda Basson, Guy Bate, Terence Bellingan, Leon Barkhuizen, Meredith Cowie, Chris Curtis, Simone Dahms, Lizaan de Necker, Brendon Dredge, Claire Edwards, Bruce Ellender, Martin Ferreira, Paul Fouche, Byron Grant, Richard Greenfield, Michelle Jackson, Greg Jansen van Rensburg, Antoinette Jooste, Hilde Kemp, Wynand Malherbe, Brigitte Melly, Mary Mkhonto, Luba Mofu, Ryo Musa, Mia Otto, Tally Palmer, Wihan Pheiffer, Simone Prinsloo, Mpho Ramoejane, Joppie Schrijvershof, Jo Van As, Liesl Van As, Johan van Vuren, Dimitri Veldkornet, Johannes Venter, Deidre West, Olaf Weyl, Darragh Woodford, Larissa Zaayman

Non-members: Nolusindiswa Jafta, Ilome Lessing, KG Mogorosi, Phetole Ramollo, Hendrik Sitole, Nadene Slabbert, Pieter Swanepoel, Petrus Venter

Apologies: Brian Allanson, Bokkie Brand, Ian Bredin, Gerhard Cilliers, Mike Coke, Helen Dallas, Jenny Day, Pete Fielding, Phumelele Gama, Rene Glen, Mark Graham, Heather Malan, Jackie King, Bonani Madikizela, Pierre Maree, Nelson Miranda, Gordon O' Brien, Annemarie Oldewage, Richard. Peel, Lyndall Pereira-da-Conceicoa, Nancy Rayner, Nico Rossouw, Geraldine Taylor, Juan Tedder, Ben van der Wall, Ina Wagenaar, Alan Whitfield

3 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No new matters were added to the agenda

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGENDA

The minutes of the 50th Annual General meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the proceedings. Proposed by Prof Guy Bate and seconded by Denise Schael.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 50TH AGM

These would be addressed under the agenda items and individual reports.

6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SASAQs Presidents Report

Prof Janine Adams presented the president's report for the period 2013/2014.

Our society is doing well, membership has grown and since 2011 we have now had a number of consecutive annual conferences that have been well supported. This conference had over 100 delegates and 68 presentations.

Conference – Black Mountain Conference Centre, 2014

The Department of Zoology and Entomology of the University of the Free State and the Free State DETEA are thanked for hosting the 2014 conference. There was an enthusiastic and efficient approach to the organisation of this event. In particular the efforts of Prof Liesl Van As, Deidré West and Petrie Vogel of

SAVETCON are acknowledged. The conference will provide a forum for discussion on aquatic science topics ranging from ecology and management to fisheries, parasitology, pollution and alien invasive species.

Conference sponsors

The Water Research Commission are sincerely thanked for sponsoring student registration, 35 students from a number of different universities were partially supported. Last year 31 students were supported and the previous year 25 students and so it is good to see this increase in student numbers. The financial support from the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and the Dean's Office (Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UFS) is also appreciated.

African Journal of Aquatic Science

Under the leadership of our editor Mike Coke and 13 associate editors the journal continues to grow in strength. The journal is funded from our SASAqS membership fees and so the growth in membership numbers during 2013 was encouraging. The journal is looking great with the first ever colour-photograph cover page and the idea is to change this with each volume.

There is excellent ongoing aquatic research in our country and it is important that this science is published. Please support our journal that has had a growth spurt in 2014 from three to four issues. In particular review articles are encouraged as they attract more citations than regular research articles. NISC were concerned that very few papers (+-30%) are contributing to the Impact Factor. Further details on the journal can be found in the editor's report as well as NISC's comprehensive report on "Subscriptions, usage and citation data for the African Journal of Aquatic Sciences 2013-2014". NISC provides an informative list on how to increase citations of your own papers.

International student travel award

The SASAqS student travel award is a prestigious award to the value of R20 000 that will be awarded to a PhD student for travel abroad. Applications are now open for 2014/15.

SACNASP Dr Wynand Vlok has been attending meetings on behalf of the society and giving feedback at our annual conference. This year the focus is on the need for continual professional development.

Interest groups – collaborative research

A "fish bioassessment workshop" co-ordinated by Dr Gordon O'Brien (INR) took place in June 2014. Further activities of this nature are encouraged to promote collaborative research among SASAqS members. This group will now prepare a "review" paper for the journal.

SASAqS 2015 conference

INR will host the 2015 conference in partnership with Umgeni Water, KZN Ezemvelo and UKZN. With this combined effort I am sure we can look forward to a bumper event.

Other

Thanks to Deidre West for the SASAqS articles in Water Wheel.

There has been some interaction with the Wetland Society with regard to a joint conference. Their meeting is usually held in September / October.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone for their support of our society, the EXCO committee and particularly Nico Smit as vice President. Denise has provided excellent secretarial back-up and we encourage you to send items of interest for distribution via our membership network. Let us continue to work together to grow our special society.

Kind regards



Janine Adams

SASAgS Office bearers during 2013- 2014 were:

President – [Prof Janine Adams](#)

Vice-President - [Prof Nico Smit](#)

Honorary Secretary - [Dr Denise Schael](#)

Honorary Treasurer - [Dr Gordon O'Brien](#)

Additional member - [Prof Victor Wepener](#)

Honorary Editor - [Mr Mike Coke](#)

Webmaster - [Dr Mike Silberbauer](#)

President's report was accepted.

7 TREASURERS REPORT

The report below was delivered by the Nico Smit in the absence of Treasurer Gordon O'Brien:

SASAgS Financial report 2014

Membership is good and we are in good financial shape

ACTION: AJAS Editor Honorarium needs to be reviewed and the society needs to plan for increase and put succession plans into place along with what financial implications that may entail. It was suggested by Prof Jenny Day that a formal Assistant Editor be considered for appointment with an Honorarium.

Honourarium for Editor is currently R20 0000 (increased to this point in 2012); Recommendation to raise to R24 – 30 0000, motion to raise to R30 000 made by Wynand Vlok, with seconds from Olaf Wyel and Guy Bate.

ACTION: NISC may be able to contribute towards an Honorarium and need to be approached to see if they can help. **Not approached to date**

ACTION: Determine with Editor and NISC if a 4th [issue] of the AJAS is a viable long-term option. **To still be determined, see Editor's report, this may not be viable.**

ACTION: Feasibility of a revised fee structure for students that would include on-line access to the journal, **Not feasible, students should have institutional access.**

The money set aside to support a PhD student for an overseas conference was not used in 2013-14. There was one application which was withdrawn when the student decided not to attend. Two calls for applications were made at the end of 2013 and beginning of 2014. Issues raised by students were that it was only open to PhD's and there was an age limit and the timing of the applications.

- Proposal on the floor to add contingency for full-time, registered, MSc students that have finished or nearly finished and have an accepted paper.
- A motion was made to approve, a vote was taken and accepted
- A call was put out in January 2015

Treasurers Report was accepted

8 EDITORS REPORT

The report below was delivered by Victor Wepener in Mike Coke's absence.

Victor highlighted Mike's report (see below) and made a call for members to please support the journal by submitting their articles. Also noted that of the 12 Associate Editors, only 2 are members of the Society, members are asked to please consider the call to serve as an Associate Editors.

Thank you to Mike Coke for continuing to do a good job with Journal.

It was brought to the membership's attention by Guy Bate that there needs to be some flexibility in On-line versus sending an electronic copy via email. The online systems seems not to be working equally well for all reviewers.

ACTION: EXCO and Editor to explore options

EDITOR'S REPORT June 2014

Introduction:

Last year we had 'growing pains' with the AJAS issues were filling up several months in advance of their publication date, and a surplus of manuscripts awaiting publication. Therefore we published a Special Issue in 2013 to accommodate this overflow. Subsequently we were granted an increase from three to four issues per year, plus an increased number of pages per issue, giving us an annual allowance of 512 pages per year. Having granted us this increase, NISC expect us to fill *all* those pages, because that's the basis on which they advertise AJAS.

Now this year we seem to have hit a 'flat spot'. We're struggling to fill the pages allocated to us. So we are back to cliff-hanger handover dates, where we don't have enough manuscripts accepted by the time the publisher is ready to produce an issue.

Be that as it may, this year we have a handsome new cover design sporting a lovely picture of Lake Chivero, Zimbabwe, by Peter Morgan, an ex-SASAqS member. This signal improvement to our image was both suggested and executed by NISC, to whom we're extremely grateful. Numbers of SASAqS members submitted potential cover photographs, and these have so impressed NISC that they propose using a different cover photo each year for the foreseeable future. Members are invited to continue sending in their entries for this prestigious purpose.

Manuscript flow:

In 2013 we received 153 mss [Table 1], which is only one more than in 2012. This supports the idea that the journal is currently in a 'flat spot'. However, as of 12 June 2014, things do seem to be improving because, with 87 mss rec'd to date, it looks like we could be back to getting more manuscripts than ever this year. However, we have not yet received any manuscripts from the newly-formed Wetland Society, although we have liaised repeatedly with them about this option.

Of the 153 mss received in 2013, 85 [57%] were immediately rejected as unsuitable or unreviewable. This illustrates how many 'chancers' try AJAS as a potential outlet for their work. Some authors simply don't examine the journal's scope, which states that we publish papers on '*African* inland and estuarine waters.'

Of the 68 mss which got reviewed, 13 [21%] have so far been rejected, 30 [47%] were published, and 25 are still under review. Of those 68 reviewed manuscripts, 11 were on fish, 9 on ecotoxicology, 7 each on wetlands and aquaculture, 5 on macroinvertebrates, 4 on algae, and the rest were on a variety of subjects. This is an indication of the major manuscript types we get offered. Once again, most manuscripts come from authors who are not members of SASAqS and who are surely our major field of potential members.

Table 1. Analysis of AJAS activity from 2009 to 2013. * = Volume with 4 issues. Peaks indicated in **bold type**.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of MSS received	93	75	104	152	153
No. of MSS rejected, deleted or withdrawn	41 44%	42 56%	71 68%	94 62%	[98] [64%]
AJAS Vol. Number	34	35	36	37	38*
Total No. of pages	304	311	343	353	471
Total No. of papers	33	35	38	38	53
Total No. book reviews	4	2	1	1	1
Authorship					
SASAgS members	15	17	8	10	12
Non-members	18	18	31	27	36
Number of articles published per region					
South Africa	13	18	12	24	21
Southern Africa	9	5	5	3	14
Northern Africa	11	12	21	6	15
Africa general					3
Overseas	0	0	1	5	0
TOTAL	33	35	38	38	53

Journal subscriptions (with acknowledgements to NISC for data and information)

After the all-time low of 130 subscriptions in 2011, the total number of subscribers to AJAS has grown, increasing significantly in the past year to 158 (Table 2). Once again, the main increase has been in the number of SASAgS-member subscriptions, with no or very little increase in those areas not managed by the Society.

Table 2: AJAS subscription statistics: 2007-2013 (data from NISC)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
RSA SASAgS	127	95	95	92	87	103	123
African SASAgS	8	3	2	8	8	10	6
Internat ^{nl} SASAgS	7	7	4	2	5	6	2
[SASAgS subtotal]	[142]	[105]	[101]	[102]	[100]	[119]	[131]
SA Institution	14	14	14	16	14	12	11
African Institution	6	3	3	2	3	2	2
Internat ^{nl} institution	12	8	12	9	10	9	10
[Institutⁿ subtotal]	[32]	[25]	[29]	[27]	[26]	[23]	[23]
SA Individual			2	3	2	2	3
African Individual		1	1	2	0	0	1
Intern ^{nl} Individual					1	0	0
[Individ^l Subtotal]		[1]	[3]	[5]	[3]	[2]	[4]
TOT. SUBSCRIP^{ns}	174	131	133	134	130	144	158

AJAS is also available to 2122 institutions/libraries through T&F journal collections and to 6000 institutions through EBSCOHost. It is available free of charge to 3500 libraries through philanthropic initiatives such as Research4Life and INASP, and is also free in low-income areas through AJOL.

AJAS netted 9900 downloads in 2013, 39% of those from points within Africa, the rest coming from Europe, North America, Asia, Australasia, Latin America and the Middle East. The leading downloads via T&F in 2013 were: Book Review 'Measuring biological diversity' [1538 downloads], Ansara-Ross et al.

'Pesticides in SA fresh waters' [x 264], Dickens & Graham 'SASS5' [x 178], Dalu et al. 'Lake Habitat Survey method' [x 134] and Whitfield 'Southern African estuarine systems' [x 118]. As part of a T&F promotional month Ansara-Ross et al.'s paper received a boost of 102 downloads. To date this popular article has received a total of 380 downloads across all platforms.

In 2013 the journal was featured at the Aquaculture America Conference (February), the World Congress of Malacology (July), the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (July), the Aquaculture Europe Conference (August), and the African Studies Association Conference (November).

Associate Editors:

A total of **13 Associate Editors** handled the manuscripts that got reviewed in 2013, of whom Wepener, Kaiser and J Taylor handled 9 manuscripts each, Weyl 8, Booth and E Taylor 7 each, and Kansime 5. Three Associate Editors resigned [Bill Taylor, Eliot Taylor and Horst Kaiser], and seven joined our ranks since my report in June 2013 [Paul Oberholster, Donovan Kotze, Nikite Muller, Richard Lim, Renzo Perissinotto, Martin Blettler and Ben van der Waal]. Some AEs work extremely hard for us, even doing extensive edits on unsatisfactory text in order to render it readable.

Reviewers: It's becoming increasingly difficult to find willing reviewers. One Associate Editor invited 13 potential reviewers for a specific paper, got 1 acceptance, 8 refusals and 4 no-replies! Whilst we try our best, the temptation here is to fall back on un-critical or inexperienced Reviewers, simply to keep the manuscripts moving.

Action delays: Some authors take a long time to act on the recommendations of their reviewers, and then to submit their revised manuscripts. But it also has to be said that some of our Reviewers have been remarkably slow to submit their reviews - some up to 6 weeks overdue, or not submitted at all, despite their promises. In addition, some Associate Editors have been regrettably slow in beginning to act on the manuscripts assigned to them. All these delays lead to frustration at one level or another. Whilst the reviewer-exhaustion and over-committed-AE syndromes are likely reasons for delays, I suspect that the '*manyana*' syndrome also plays a significant part at various levels of the AJAS system.

Aquaculture manuscripts:

When our Aquaculture Associate Editor, Horst Kaiser, resigned, three AEs suggested that AJAS ought not to publish 'aquaculture' manuscripts because there are plenty of aquaculture journals 'out there'. orst felt that many such manuscripts were in fact 'applied fish biology'. He pointed out that Africa does not have a journal dedicated to aquaculture, and that AJAS fulfilled that need. Ben van der Waal has now agreed to act as our new 'aquaculture' AE, and so we continue as before.

Multiple authorships:

There is a trend towards having multiple authors per paper. In 1994 AJAS Volume 20 averaged 1.5 authors per paper, and in 2013 Volume 38 averaged 2.8 authors per paper.

One quite short and straightforward paper received recently had five authors although, under pressure, they eventually trimmed it down to three. But in fact AJAS comes off lightly here. A recent paper in Science had 76 authors, and Global Change Biology had one with 75 authors!

Online system problems:

Some authors and reviewers have difficulty operating the online manuscript management system. One reviewer has said he refuses to review for us again unless the system provides him with what he himself requires – i.e. access via a *simple* log-on keyword, and an editable Word file of the manuscript under consideration. [Word files are actually available within the system, if one looks carefully! Ed.] A couple of authors have had difficulty uploading files, probably due to the complexity of the online system, which asks a long series of questions before a manuscript can be submitted. Several authors have uploaded revised versions of manuscripts to *new* reference numbers, instead of to their original numbers, as stipulated in the decision letters sent out after manuscripts have been reviewed. These problem areas are being discussed with the online system managers.

Author problems:

One 'accepted' manuscript got sent back to its authors on account of having points in its Abstract that were not discussed in its text. On returning this manuscript to its cluster of authors it was found that neither of the co-authors knew that the manuscript existed, let alone had been reviewed. Thus, the fact that the

wording “submission ... implies that all authors have approved submission of the article...” appears in the AJAS Instructions to Authors obviously does not mean that authors either read or abide by that point.

This highlights the need for an additional question in the online process to the effect that “All authors/co-authors have seen and agree to the submission of this manuscript for consideration.” But perhaps some simplification of the online system would also be in order.

Plagiarism raised its ugly head again recently in a manuscript by a S.A. student and a Professor. We also heard that Rhodes University recently challenged and dismissed a staff member on this very issue. The NISC policy document on plagiarism has now been circulated to all Associate Editors.

The above two problems make one wonder whether Universities teach or advise their students on the process and ethics of manuscript writing and submission. In this connection, a Botswana organisation recently approached AJAS for a workshop on manuscript writing, and has been referred to a Johannesburg company specialising in this art.

Impact Factor 2013:

As of 14 June 2014, our 2013 Impact Factor has not yet been announced. NISC anticipates that our 2013 Impact Factor will rise slightly from 0.446 in 2012, to **0.468 in 2013**. The expected paper citation figures for the 2013 Impact Factor calculation are:

Total Source Items in 2011-2012: 77

Uncited in 2013: 54 [70.1%]

Cited in 2013: 23 [29.8%]

1 Citation: 17 [22%]

2 Citations: 2 [2.6%]

3-4 Citations: 3 [3.9%]

5+ Citations: 1 [1.3%].

Another most interesting estimate by NISC is the following:

The top 5 journals citing African Journal of Aquatic Science:

1. African Zoology
2. Water SA
3. Hydrobiologia
4. Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science
5. Eutrophication Causes Consequences and Control.

NISC are, however, concerned that very few papers (26 to 30 % in recent years) contribute to our annual Impact Factor. In comparison with two other NISC journals, A.J. Marine Science scored 44 – 64 % in recent years, with 51 % in 2013, and Afr. Zoology scored 26 to 47 % in recent years, with 42 % in 2013. So AJAS has a long way to go to catch up!

The journal can expect its first 5-year Impact Factor in June this year, and it looks AJAS could then be in the 2-citations bracket.

Tables 3 and 4 show the most-cited articles in WoS and Scopus that will probably contribute most to our 2013 Impact Factor. From the very wide spectrum of article types listed there, it's difficult to see where AJAS should focus its effort in future in order to improve its Impact Factor. NISC's advice here has been sought.

Table 3: Articles published in 2011-2012 that were most cited in WoS in 2013

No	Author	Year	Title	No. Cites
1	Marr et al.	2012	An assessment of a proposal to eradicate non-native fish from priority rivers in the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa	6
2	Mlambo et al.	2011	Diversity patterns of temporary wetland macroinvertebrate assemblages in the south-western Cape, South Africa	3
3	Siziba et al.	2011	Spatial and temporal variations in densities of small fishes across different temporary floodplain types of the lower Okavango Delta, Botswana	3
4	Naidoo et al.	2012	Ecophysiological responses of the salt marsh grass <i>Spartina maritima</i> to salinity	3
5	Murray-Hudson et al.	2011	A vegetation-based hierarchical classification for seasonally pulsed floodplains in the Okavango Delta, Botswana	2
5	Teroerde & Turpie	2012	Use of a small, intermittently-open estuary by waterbirds: a case study of the East Kleinemonde Estuary, Eastern Cape, South Africa	2

Table 4: Articles published in 2009-2013 that were most cited in Scopus in 2011-2013

No	Author	Year	Title	No. cites
1	van Dyk et al.	2009	A histology-based fish health assessment of four commercially and ecologically important species from the Okavango Delta panhandle, Botswana	8
2	P Weyl et al.	2010	The effect of largemouth bass <i>Micropterus salmoides</i> on aquatic macroinvertebrate communities in the Wit River, Eastern Cape, South Africa	8
3	Masese et al.	2009	A preliminary benthic macroinvertebrate index of biotic integrity (B-IBI) for monitoring the Moiben River, Lake Victoria Basin, Kenya	7
4	Crafford et al.	2009	Application of a fish health assessment index and associated parasite index to <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> (Teleostei: Clariidae) in the Vaal River system, South Africa	6
5	van Dyk et al.	2009	Histological changes in the gills of <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> (Teleostei: Clariidae) from a polluted South African urban aquatic system	6
6	Richardson et al.	2009	Rapid biological assessment of the fishery potential of Xonxa Dam, near Queenstown, South Africa	6
7	Marr et al.	2012	An assessment of a proposal to eradicate non-native fish from priority rivers in the Cape Floristic Region, South Africa	6
8	Montoya-Maya et al.	2009	Zooplankton composition, abundance and distribution in selected south and west coast estuaries in South Africa	5
9	Kumolu-Johnson et al.	2010	Copper, zinc and iron concentrations in water, sediment and <i>Cynothrissa mento</i> (Regan 1917) from Ologe Lagoon, Lagos, Nigeria: A preliminary survey	5
10	le Roux et al.	2010	Checklist of the fish parasitic genus <i>Cichlidogyrus</i> (Monogenea), including its cosmopolitan distribution and host species	5
11	Stadtlander et al.	2011	New distribution record for the Asian tapeworm <i>Bothriocephalus acheilognathi</i> Yamaguti, 1934 in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa	5

AJAS Publishing summary 1999 to mid-2014:

Over the past 15 years AJAS has received 1191 manuscripts. Of these, 463 [39%] were rejected as being either unsuitable or unpublishable and 728 were published. The year-on-year rejection rates sometimes rose as high as 60%.

A total of 1616 authors and co-authors have written for our journal, and 798 people have reviewed for it. Amongst these two groups, 214 people both wrote *and* reviewed for us, and to them we are especially grateful for their efforts.

Our hardest-working authors were: Cyrus [29 manuscripts], Wepener [22 mss], Froneman [14 mss], van Vuren [14 mss] and Marshall [13 mss]. At the other end of the scale, 1300 authors/co-authors sent us only one manuscript each.

Our hardest-working reviewers were: Marshall [35 mss], Wepener [29mss], Weyl [22mss], Kaiser [19 mss] and Cambray [16 mss], all of whom we thank profusely for their very significant input into the functioning of AJAS. At the other end of the scale, 524 people reviewed only one article each for us.

AJAS has grown over recent years from a two-issue, 170 pages-per-year publication to a four-issue, 470-pages per year publication, we have indeed much to be proud of.

Mike Coke
16 June 2014

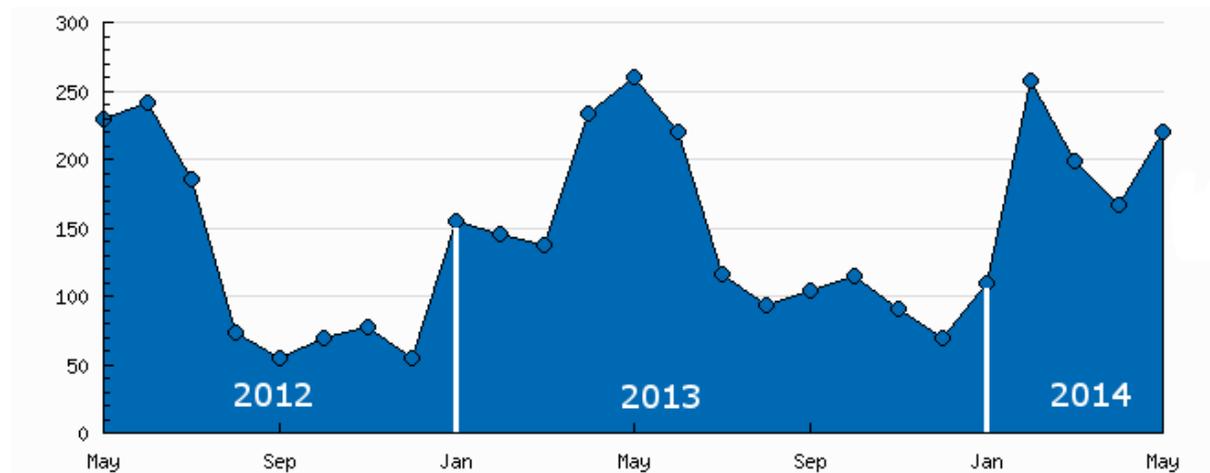
No Action other than from above in the Treasurers Report.

Editor's Report was accepted.

9 WEB MASTERS REPORT

<http://www.riv.co.za/sasaqs>

Number of unique visits 2012-2014 (same pattern as in the past):



The SASAqS Facebook page does not appear to be used much, and is inaccessible for those behind corporate firewalls. Generally, communication takes place via the Email list.

Web Master's Report was accepted.

10 COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Nothing to report

11 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

SASAqS Student Report 2014

A meeting was held on Tuesday the 24th June 2014 at 8 pm and chaired by Brigitte Melly and Dmitri Veldkornet (2013-2015 student representatives).

There was a discussion about a student group/combined project or at minimum combining a pre-conference field trip.

12 CONFERENCES

SASAqS has been approached by the South African Wetlands Society (SAWS) with regard to having a joint conference. The main consideration for both societies is the timing. As SASAqS generally holds our meeting in June/July time period, SAWS traditionally has their Wetlands Indaba in October. It would be great to bring the societies together, but we need to come up with a compromise in order to affect a successful "joint" meeting.

ACTION: EXCO to explore options and negotiate with SAWS EXCO and bring to SASAqS membership for guidance.

2015 Conference

Ian Bailey gave a presentation on the 2015 Conference in KZN. The venue will be at Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensberg. The theme will be "Protect and Use", 28 June – 2 July. The conference will be co-hosted by INR, UKZN, Umgeni Water, Ezemvelo Parks and Groundtruth.

2016 Conference

It was proposed by Nico Smit that NWU will host the 2016 conference. Venue to be announced at next year's conference. He was thanked for volunteering his group and showing further support and commitment to the Society.

2017 Conference

No planned place or organisers to date, volunteers welcome.

13 AWARDS

The concept of a Student Travel award to be given to Student Members of SASAqS to enable them to attend an international conference was presented. There were no viable applications in 2013-14 (see Treasurer's report), but it is hoped to give this award out in 2014-15.

Gold Medal was awarded this year to Prof Pete Ashton at the Gala Dinner event.

A call for nominations for Gold and Silver Medals will be made in January 2015. If there are nominations the Awards committee will determine if the nominations will be awarded, and awards will be presented at the next conference in June/July 2015.

14 HONORARIA

As per Treasurer's report, an Honorarium has been allocated for the Editor of R30 000.00 per annum.

15 BY-LAWS

ACTION: The new award must be placed into the by-laws of the society.

16 CONSTITUTION

There was no feedback on the circulated updated Constitution from the Society membership.

Nico Smit will circulate the new legal clause to incorporate into the Constitution so that SASAqS can register as an NGO.

17 EXCO COUNCIL

2013, 2014, 2015 (elections for new members in June 2015)

PRESIDENT: Janine Adams

VICE PRESIDENT: Nico Smit

TREASURER: Gordon O'Brien

SECRETARY: Denise Schael

Ordinary members: Victor Wepener, Wynand Vlok, Paul Fouche

18 GENERAL

Update on SACNASP (Wynand Vlok)

19 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

1 July 2015

20 CLOSING

Janine Adams closed the meeting and thanked all those present for their input.

Signed _____

Vice President (N Smit)

Date

Accepted _____

President (J Adams)

Date